

# **Sales Tax Committee Meeting**

## **Summary Minutes**

### **December 13, 2012**

*Absent members: Mr. Ed Murray.*

**Meeting began at 4:04 pm**

#### **Agenda Item #1: Citizens to be Heard**

Ms. Debbie Lightsey addressed the Committee in support of the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Bob Carver addressed the Committee in support of the 'Private Dirt Road Paving Program' project.

Ms. Lori Danello Roberts addressed the Committee in support of the Performing Arts Center.

#### **Agenda Item #2: Approval of Summary Minutes for the November 29, 2012 Meeting of the Leon County Sales Tax Committee**

Mr. Todd Sperry amended the minutes to reflect that Mr. Curtis Baines also discussed Oak Ridge sewer project during Agenda Item #1.

Mr. Curtis Richardson made a motion to approve the summary minutes for the November 15, 2012 meeting of the Sales Tax Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Glenda Thornton. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #3: Additional Project Identification by Committee Members**

The Committee identified several additional projects for consideration such as:

- Alternative sewer solutions, including a proposal for Harbinwood Estates Neighborhood.
- Classify sidewalk projects improvements as Primary (one sidewalk on oneside of the road) or Secondary (a sidewalk on both sides of the road.)

#### **Agenda Item #4: Additional Information Requested by Committee Members**

Staff provided the Committee with information that was requested regarding the North Florida Fairgrounds. Ms. Kim Rivers asked for more information about what can be legally done with the Fairgrounds redevelopment under the constraints of the current lease. Ms. Henree Martin suggested that perhaps instead of relocating the Fairgrounds that the Committee should consider a project to beautify and improve the North Florida Fairgrounds. The Committee agreed and this project was added to the list of projects for the Committee to consider.

Staff provided the Committee with a status report on the Hotel Conference Center. Mr. Rick McCraw from the Tallahassee Community Redevelopment Agency answered Committee questions.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Presentation by Community Groups: Killlearn Estates**

Mr. Bob Ippolito presented on behalf of the Killlearn Estates Homeowners Association about the history of development around Lake Killarney and its deterioration. Mr. Ippolito also spoke on the findings of a study his organization commissioned in regards to the degradation of Lake Killarney and what can be done to restore it.

Mr. John Buss, City of Tallahassee's Director of Water Resource Engineering, stated that City staff disagreed with the study's findings. The University of Florida will act as an impartial third

party and review the data. Mr. Buss stated that the problem is due to low water levels and periodic flooding. City staff believes that the reports suggestions would only give temporary relief, while some of the suggested actions would worsen the issue of water shortage if implemented.

**Agenda Item #6: Presentation by Community Groups: Performing Arts Center**

The presentation opened with a video showcasing support of community members for a Performing Arts Center. Mr. Bob Inzer, Mr. Tim Edmond, Ms. Lee Hinkle, and Mr. Jon Moyle presented on behalf of the Florida Center for Performing Arts and Education.

The Committee had several questions for the panel. Chairman Evans requested that the group come back to the Committee on February 21, 2013 with more information on:

- Clarification on the direct economic impact of the performing arts center;
- Clarification on the capital and operating costs for the Performing Arts Center;
- Discussion regarding the time limit on fundraising and the amount raised to date;
- An inventory of current cultural art venues.

Commissioner Bill Proctor spoke on the possibility of renovating an existing structure like the Tallahassee Mall, combining the performing arts center with a convention center, and localizing the name of the center.

**Agenda Item #8: Proposed Modifications to the Decision Making Process**

Mr. Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator, proposed to the Committee a modified calendar for the decision making process and project selection. After significant discussion, the Committee agreed that one day retreat would be held to discuss the vision for the Committee. The retreat will be held on Friday, February 1, 2013. In addition, the Committee agreed to form a small subcommittee consisting of Chair Steve Evans, Kim Rivers, and Christic Henry to outline the proposed retreat day. Mr. Peebles requested that at the end of the retreat the Committee discuss the project evaluation and decision making process.

Ms. Kim Rivers moved to accept the amended proposed calendar. The motion was seconded by Mr. Will Messer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #7: Presentation by Community Groups: KCCI on the Sports Complex**

Adam Watson presented on behalf of the Knight Creative Communities Institute Capital Sports Initiative.

Mr. Ken Morris, Director of Leon County Office of Economic Development and Business Partnerships, provided information on the action taken by the Board of County Commissioners over the summer on the Sports Complex. Mr. Morris stated the Board decided not to take any action on the Sports Complex report due to the high cost of the proposal and concern that Sports Complex dependent on gym memberships would not be financially feasible. Mr. Morris noted that the Board hadn't heard the proposals involving private investors. He also noted that the Sports Complex could not be funded with bed taxes at this time since all bed tax proceeds are committed.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.**